

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02

ACDA-07 EUR-12 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /088 W

----- 049624

R 131555Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9751

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2529

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, LI, US

SUBJ:REDUCTION IN MAAGS AND U.S. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO MAAGS

REF: MONROVIA 2058

SUMMARY: HQ EUCOM HAS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES DESIGNATED U.S. MILITARY MISSION LIBERIA FOR DISESTABLISHMENT IF ANTICIPATED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION REQUIRES REDUCTIONS IN MAAGS AND U.S. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO MAAGS. THIS DESIGNATION WAS MADE IN AWARENESS AND DISREGARD OF EMBASSY'S OBJECTION TO SUCH ACTION ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. REQUEST DEPARTMENT INITIATE CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER IN APPROPRIATE INTERDEPARTMENTAL FORUM NOW. END SUMMARY.

1. MONROVIA 2058 EXPLAINED HOW, FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, HQ EUCOM HAD INCLUDED DISESTABLISHMENT OF USMM AS PART OF ANTICIPATED CONGRESSIONAL REQUIREMENT TO ELIMINATE MAAGS AND/OR REDUCE NUMBER OF POSITIONS THEREIN. EMBASSY'S MESSAGE ALSO REGISTERED OPPOSITION ON POLITICAL GROUNDS TO THIS PLANNING RE USMM AND NOTED COMPLETE LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH EMBASSY ON POLITICAL ASPECTS OF SUCH DISESTABLISHMENT OF USMM

2. USMM HAS NOW RECEIVED ANOTHER HQ EUCOM MESSAGE (USCINCEUR ECJ1-M6226 081619Z APR 76) WHICH WAS NOT SENT SECSTATE OR DOD, CONFIRMING DECISION ON DISESTABLISHMENT OF USMM SHOULD CONGRESS-
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IONAL ACTION REQUIRE ELIMINATION OF MAAGS AND/OR REDUCTION OF

POSITIONS THEREIN. THIS HQ EUCOM MESSAGE
ACKNOWLEDGES EMBASSY'S OPPOSITION, BUT DISREGARDS IT.

3. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT DISESTABLISHMENT OF USMM,
AS FORESEEN BY HQ EUCOM, HAS POLITICALLY ADVERSE RAMIFICATIONS
THAT SHOULD BE AVOIDED AND THAT SAVINGS EFFECTED BY HQ EUCOM'S
PROJECTED ACTION WOULD NOT JUSTIFY THOSE POLITICAL COSTS. THIS
VIEW SPELLED OUT IN MONROVIA 2058.

4. IT IS CLEAR TO EMBASSY THAT CONTEMPLATED DISESTABLISHMENT OF
USMM, IF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION REQUIRES SUCH REDUCTIONS, IS NOT
MERELY MATTER OF NUMBER OF MAAGS OR MILITARY SPACES. BILATERAL
RELATIONS OF HIGHEST ORDER BETWEEN U.S. AND LIBERIA WOULD BE
INVOLVED. IF EXPECTED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION DOES TRANSPIRE, IT
PRESUMABLY WILL NOT IDENTIFY USMM FOR DISESTABLISHMENT, AND
POLITICAL ASPECTS OF DISESTABLISHMENT OF USMM COULD AND WOULD THEN
BE CONSIDERED IN APPROPRIATE FORUM. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS CON-
SIDERATION SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN NOW BEFORE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDAT-
IONS FOR REDUCTION GET ENSHRINED IN IMMUTABLE PLANS.

5. IT MAY BE THAT HQ EUCOM CONSIDERS THAT ITS MESSAGES TO USMM
ARE IN-HOUSE, AND THAT DISREGARD OF EMBASSY'S VIEWS IS ACCEPTABLE
THEREIN. FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS ARGUE OTHERWISE: (A) HQ
EUCOM COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT HAVE COME THROUGH EMBASSY
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, AND EMBASSY IS ON DISTRIBUTION THEREOF.

(B) HQ EUCOM'S OWN PLAN FOR DISESTABLISHMENT WOULD REQUIRE
COOPERATION OF EMBASSY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTED EUCOM LIA-
ISON AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE UNIT. (C) BY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE
(11 FAM 033.1) COM HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR DIRECTION, COORDINATION
AND SUPERVISION OF ALL ACTIVITIES OF USG IN LIBERIA. (D) WHEN A
SIMILAR ACTION (REDUCTION IN SIZE OF USMM) WAS TAKEN IN 1974
WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH EMBASSY, IT WAS GIVEN SOLEMN ASSURANCES
SIMILAR ACTION WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN. IN FACT, EUCOM APOLOGIZED
FOR FAILURE OF APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION AND
CONSIDERATION OF EMBASSY'S VIEWS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOW INITIATE CONSIDER-
ATION ON INTERDEPARTMENTAL BASIS OF POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF
POSSIBLE DISESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. MILITARY MISSION LIBERIA AS
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PROJECTED BY HQ EUCOM.

7. CHIEF US MILITARY MISSION HAS BEEN INFORMED OF CONTENTS THIS
MESSAGE.
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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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